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**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY****REGION 8****999 18TH STREET - SUITE 300****DENVER, CO 80202-2466****Phone 800-227-8917****<http://www.epa.gov/region08>**

Ref: 8EPR-SR

December 3, 2002

Ms. Mary Darling
US Army Corps of Engineers
Rapid Response Program Office
Building 525, Room 324
Offutt Air Force Base, NE 68113

RE: Vasquez Boulevard/Interstate 70 (VB/I-70)
Site, Operable Unit 1

Dear Mary:

I am writing to transmit five copies of the draft work plan for the soil removal component of remedial action at the VB/I-70 Site, Operable Unit 1. EPA requests your agency's review of the enclosed document. Your input will be incorporated into the final work plan. Please send me any comments you have in writing by January 6, 2003.

I offer the following additional information to assist you in your review:

1. Currently, EPA plans to enter into an Interagency Agreement with the United States Army Corps of Engineers ("the Corps") to implement the work described in the enclosed work plan with one exception. We plan to have the soil sampling component accomplished by an independent EPA contractor. Although the exact roles and responsibilities of each party are still being discussed, in general, the role of the "Supervising Contractor" described in the enclosed work plan is that of the Corps. The role of the "Construction Contractor" is that of the Corp's contractor.
2. The work plan was prepared consistent with the preferred alternative in the May 2002 Proposed Plan. EPA is re-issuing the Proposed Plan and is currently developing a new preferred alternative that significantly increases the scope of the soil removal component. That new Proposed Plan is expected to be issued for public comment in the spring of 2003. Only after considering the new public comments will EPA make a final decision on remedial action. The enclosed work plan will be modified to reflect the scope of EPA's final decision. EPA is working towards implementing a non-time-critical removal action in 2003 while the final

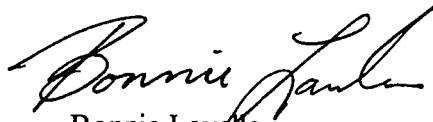


remedy decision is pending. EPA intends to use this work plan for soil removal work in VB/I-70 Operable Unit 1 whether that work is performed as a Non-Time Critical Removal Action or as a Remedial Action.

3. I want to call your attention to the fact that the enclosed work plan includes cost estimates which you may or may not wish to share with the construction contractor, depending on your procurement procedures.

I'd like to convene a meeting to discuss the resolution of all comments I receive sometime in January, 2003. I will contact you to make arrangements. If you have any questions during your review, don't hesitate to contact me. The best way to reach me is by email at lavelle.bonita@epa.gov. I can also be reached by phone at (303) 312-6579. I look forward to working with you on the development of the final work plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bonnie Lavelle".

Bonnie Lavelle
Remedial Project Manager

enclosures